

Applicant: Rudnick et al.
Application Serial No.: Unassigned
Filing Date: Herewith
Docket No.: 760-84 CON 4
Page 7

REMARKS

The application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/977,823, filed October 15, 2001, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/271,304, filed March 17, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,319,277, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/708,651, filed September 5, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,906,639, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/289,791, filed August 12, 1994, now U.S. Patent No. 5,575,816, all of which are incorporated herein by reference.

In the present amendment, all of the originally filed claims have been cancelled and new claims 54-60 are presented herewith. The claims presented herewith have been copied from issued U.S. Patent No. 6,517,570, issued February 11, 2003 to Lau et al. The claims have been copied to preserve an opportunity to provoke an interference with the '570 Patent, inasmuch as this application and the present Preliminary Amendment are being filed within one year of the issue date of '570 Patent.

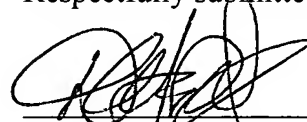
In addition, the application has been amended to specifically note the priority status of the present application.

Applicant: Rudnick et al.
Application Serial No.: Unassigned
Filing Date: Herewith
Docket No.: 760-84 CON 4
Page 8

Moreover, the drawings have been amended to add Figure 9 which was added during prosecution of priority Application Serial No. 09/271,304, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,319,277. The specification has been amended to refer to this added drawing.

It is respectfully submitted that the application, including claims 54-60, is in condition for examination. Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this response, the undersigned would be pleased to address them by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel A. Seola, Jr.
Registration No.: 29,855
Attorney for Applicant(s)

HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP
6900 Jericho Turnpike
Syosset, New York 11791
(973) 331-1700